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Mobilizing for Children

February 9, 2011

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RE: HB 5558: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR RECIPIENTS OF TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS
UNDER THE JOBS FIRST PROGRAM.

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services
Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, an alliance of 80 organizations, parents and concerned individuals who are committed to improving the well-being of children and families through research, advocacy, and community education. **BCAC supports HB 5558, "An Act Concerning Educational Opportunities For Recipients of Temporary Family Assistance Benefits Under the JOBS First Program."**

Allowing recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) who do not have a high school diploma or GED to attend educational activities to satisfy the first twenty hours of work experiences or employment required under the employment services program is a good idea. A high school degree or its equivalent is essential to compete in today's job market. We also urge that the definition of educational activities be expanded to include higher education. A college degree is becoming increasingly important to get and keep a job and to move off assistance.

Please include this document into the public testimony on HB 5558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Pat C. Healy".

Mary Pat Healy
Executive Director

Mary Pat C. Healy

Executive Director

cc Subira Gordon, Clerk for Human Services Committee